

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 CU-04 SS-15 SCI-06 NASA-04 RSR-01 /069 W
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R 281230 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5415

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0866

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, MA, US
SUBJ: REPPAS CASE

REF: STATE 123584

1. DURING CALL ON FONMIN RASIRAKA 28 JUN ABOUT HIS VISIT TO US, I PASSED ON TO HIM DEPT' S SUGGESTION THAT GOMR MAKE SOME GESTURE TO DEFUSE REPPAS ISSUE IN US BEFORE IT CLOUDS FONMIN' S VISIT. IN REPLY HIS QUERY AS TO WHAT GESTURE, I SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, PROV- ISIONAL RELEASE OF REPPAS, PERHAPS UNDER BAIL, BUT WITH BAIL ESTABLISHED AT REASONABLE LEVEL. HE INDICATED THAT WOULD APPEAR BE ONLY KIND OF GESTURE POSSIBLE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. HE INSISTED EMBASSY EMBODY THIS PROPOSAL IN WRITING TO ENABLE HIM PASS IT ON TO MIN JUSTICE IN THAT MANNER. THOUGH WE ARE REL- UCTANT FOR EVIDENT REASONS TO PUT ANY SUCH SUGGESTION INTO WRITING AT THIS STAGE, WE ARE DOING SO UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN VIEW RATSIRAKA' S INSISTENCE AFTER OUR INITIAL DEMURRAL. WE SHALL HAND HIM WRITTEN SUGGESTION 29 JUN PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FROM MADAG- ASCAR ON TRIP ABROAD.

3. HE URGED THAT US ALSO SEEK GET ACROSS TO AMERICAN PEOPLE EXP- LANATION THAT FRENCH JUDICIAL SYSTEM DIFFERS FROM ANGLO- SAXON SYSTEM IN THAT ACCUSED OFTEN HELD WITHOUT RELEASE DURING PERIOD OF PRETRIAL INVESTIGATION. HE ADDED IT WOULD BE HARD MAKE MALAGASY PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHY REPPAS SHOULD BE RELEASED ON BAIL WHEN OTHER PERSONS ARRESTED LIKE EX- CABINET MINS MIADANA AND RASIDY
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CONTINUE BE HELD WITHOUT RELEASE PENDING TRIAL. I MENTIONED THAT
CERTAIN ACCUSED GIVEN PROVISIONAL RELEASE UNDER MALAGASY SYSTEM
(I HAD IN MIND DONALD KOPLIN, OTHER AMERICAN ARRESTED IN CONN-
ECTION AGM AFFAIR), BUT RATSIRAKA REPLIED THAT LEVEL OF OFFENSE
CHARGED PLAYS ROLE IN DETERMINING WHETHER PROVISIONAL RELEASE
GRANTED.
MENDENHALL

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TANANA00866
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730631/aaaajrdn.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 123584
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <30-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980302
Subject: REPPAS CASE
TAGS: CASC, MA, US
To: AF
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005